

Connecticut Judicial Branch
Commission on Access to Justice
Self-represented Parties Subcommittee

April 23, 2012

1:00p.m.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. The minutes of the January 23, 2012 meeting of the Self-represented Parties Subcommittee were approved. Attorney Arkin abstained.
3. The subcommittee discussed the creation of a guide for court staff in dealing with self-represented parties. As previously agreed, the guides from Maryland, Massachusetts and Texas are being looked at as models for the creation of Connecticut's guide.

Attorney Arkin suggested that a chapter of the guide be created to address judges and their interactions with self-represented parties. The chapter could be posted on the judge's electronic bench book and could act as a resource guide and a tool for the judges. Attorney Arkin also suggested that a small workgroup of judges be established to write and create the chapter.

The subcommittee also discussed the existing video resources that are posted on the Judicial Branch website. The subcommittee agreed that there is a lot of information available on our website for self-represented parties and the subcommittee discussed the creation of additional resources and tools such as other videos that may also be helpful. Specifically, the subcommittee recommended that such topics as filing an annulment, how to file in small claims court and how to modify a child support order might lend themselves to the creation of self-help videos. The subcommittee will continue to explore the need for additional web tools and resources to complement the wide variety of existing electronic resources for self-represented parties.

4. The next meeting of the Self-represented Parties subcommittee will be held on Monday, June 25, 2012 at 1:00pm.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00p.m.